



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

JAN 28 1994

Mr. Steven D. Sallen
Maddin, Hauser, Wartell, Roth,
Heller & Passes, P.C.
28400 Northwestern Highway
Southfield, Michigan 48034-8004

Dear Mr. Sallen:

Thank you for your recent letter to Administrator Browner voicing your concerns regarding the current Superfund program for consideration during the Superfund reauthorization process, particularly as they pertain to the Superfund liability provisions, cleanup standards and its impact on lead battery recyclers.

EPA has been conducting an extensive review of the Superfund program in preparation for reauthorization of the Superfund law. Through the reauthorization process, EPA is committed to making the Superfund program more efficient, equitable, and effective in addressing contaminated sites throughout the country. To ensure that all affected parties are involved in this review, EPA has undertaken a number of steps to enable interested parties to voice their opinions directly to EPA officials. Over the last year EPA has conducted a number of public meetings in cities across the country to hear suggestions for improvements to the Superfund program. At EPA's request, the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) convened a committee to examine changes to the Superfund program. The NACEPT committee included representatives from the recycling industry, small businesses, large industrial firms, environmental groups, local governments, and other interested citizens. The NACEPT committee has provided EPA with valuable input on the future direction of the Superfund program and assisted EPA in developing legislative options for reauthorization. EPA has also received numerous proposals for changes to the Superfund program from many organizations. The NACEPT committee's input and legislative options and the proposals from other organizations are being considered by EPA in its Superfund reauthorization efforts.

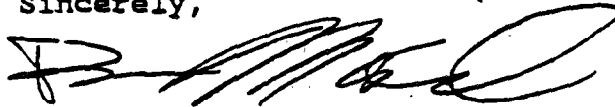


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EPA has also recently announced a series of administrative improvements to the Superfund program, which can be accomplished in the short-term prior to reauthorization. These changes are aimed at reducing transaction costs, enhancing enforcement fairness, accelerating the pace of cleanups, and increasing the degree of public involvement and the role of the states in the Superfund program. We have begun implementation of these improvements and will monitor the success of these changes as we prepare for Superfund's reauthorization.

We will give full consideration to your views on Superfund reauthorization as we proceed through this process and we welcome any further opinions you may have on the Superfund program. Thank you again for your interest in the Superfund program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. M. Diamond', written in a cursive style.

Bruce M. Diamond, Director
Office of Waste Programs Enforcement